

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-05

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO NOSIC MD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186803

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING CONAKRY 1381 SENT ACTION SECSTATE AUG 8, 1977
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1381

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOGNULI GV US URO
SUFRECT: RETURN TN TU-95 TO GUINEA

1. EMBOFF OBSERVED ONE TU-95 AIRCRAFT AT CONAKRY MILITARY
AIRPORT AUGUST 7. TU-95 MAY HAVE LANDED P.M. AUGUST 6. AS
OF MORNING AUGUST 8, IT WAS STILL THERE.

2. AT 0920 ON AUGUST 8, FOREIGN MINISTER FILY CISSOKO
SUMMONED CHARGE TO MFA TO EXPLAIN TU-95'S PRESENCE.
CISSOKO SAID HE HAD BEEN CHARGED BY SEKOU TOURE TO INFORM
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT THAT THE SOLEMN ASSURANCES GIVEN BY
PRIME MINISTER BEAVOGUI, AND SEKOU TOURE'S CONFIRMATION OF
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THESE ASSURANCES TO AMBASSADOR HARROP SHORTLY BEFORE
LATTER'S DEPARTURE, REMAIN VALID. CISSOKO CITED AFRICAN
PROVERB TO EFFECT THAT WORD OF HONEST MAN IS
NVIOLABLE NO
MATTER WITH WHOM HE SPEAKS. SEKOU TOURE HAD PROMISED THAT THE
TU-95'S WOULD NOT RETURN UNLESS REQUESTED BY GUINEA, AND
THIS REMAINS GOG'S POSITION.

3. CISSOKO SAID WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN THIS CASE WAS "UNFORESEEN" EXCEPTION". WITHOUT INFORMING TOURE, A GUINEAN "TECHNICAL SERVICE" HAD ACQUIESCED IN A SHORT-NOTICE SOVIET REQUEST TO ALLOW SEVERAL TU-95'S TO MAKE A "TECHNICAL STOP" FOR REFUELING EN ROUTE TO LUANDA WHERE THEY WOULD BE OPERATING. UPON LANDING, AT TU-95 "MALFUNCTIONED" AND THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE (AS OF A.M. AUGUST 8) TO GET IT OFF THE GROUND. THE SOVIET CHARGE HAS BEEN CALLED IN AND REMINDED THAT SOVIET PLANES CANNOT LAND WITHOUT GOG PERMISSION. FONMIN REITERATED THAT EXCELLENT FRAMEWORK OF U.S.-GUINEAN RELATIONS REMAINED VALID, AND SEKOU TOURE WISHED GIVE HIS FULL ASSURANCE TO THIS EFFECT.

4. CHARGE RESPONDED THAT U.S. LEADERS NO DOUBT WERE CONCERNED AT WHAT THEY MAY ALREADY PERCEIVE AS BREACH OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH HAD BEEN REACHED AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF BOTH GOVERNMENTS AND UNDERLINED ONCE AGAIN IN PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT LETTER TO PRESIDENT TOURE. THUS, FONMIN'S EXPLANATION OF PRESIDENT TOURE'S VIEW WAS WELCOME AND APPRECIATED. AS PRESIDENT TOURE HAS SAID, "ACTS, NOTHING BUT ACTS, NO WORDS, ARE WHAT COUNT," AND U.S. WILL FOLLOW SITUATION WITH CLOSEST ATTENTION, GIVEN SOLEMN COMMITMENT AND HIGH-LEVEL INVOLVEMENT IN MATTER.
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5. COMMENT: SINCE ORIGINAL COPY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT LETTER NOW IN HAND BUT NOT YET DELIVERED TO TOURE, SUGGEST DEPT AUTHORIZE CHARGE TO SEEK MEETING WITH TOURE THIS WEEK TO PRESENT IT AND TO RECONFIRM DIRECTLY TU-95 ASSURANCES RELAYED BY CISSOKO.

6. AT SAME TIME, IF DEPARTMENT CONCURS, IN CONTEXT OF "REVIEW OF RESULTS OF BEAVOGUI VISIT, WE COULD ALSO USE OCCASION TO SEEK TOURE'S GENERAL ASSENT TO U.S. NAVAL SHIP VISIT IN FALL, AND COULD BROACH PROPOSED ICRC VISIT, IF ICRC HAS BY THEN GIVEN ASSENT TO APPROACH. PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER MAY OPEN DOOR WHICH, ACCORDING TO USUAL GUINEAN PRACTICE, NOT NORMALLY OPEN TO ANY EXCEPT AMBASSADORS; IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO SAMPLE TOURE'S MOOD AND VIEWS DIRECTLY ON KEY BILATERAL ISSUES IF POSSIBLE. IF TOURE MEETING NOT POSSIBLE, COULD SEE BEAVOGUI INSTEAD. MAINLAND UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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